KING

And both HOUSES of

PARLIAMENT.

BEING

A brief and general Account of the late and present sufferings of many of the Peaceable Subjects called *Quakers*, upon the late Act against Conventicles; for no other Cause but Meeting together to Worship God according to their perswasions and Consciences.

For the Oppression of the Poor, and the Sighing of the Needy, I will arise saith the Lord, &c.

Printed in the Year, 1675.

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FOR THE

KING

And both HOUSES of

PARLIAMENT.

WHereas many of the ſaid People, have of late been, and ſtill are greatly diſquieted, and ſeverely uſed, many poor Families Ruined as to their Livelihoods; the Fatherleſs and Widdows greatly Oppreſſed; many honeſt Trades-men diſcouraged, Trading in many places much ſtopt and decayed; the Poor wanting Bread, by reaſon of the great ſpoyl and havock that's made upon many Innocent Induſtrious Families, only for the exerciſe of their tender Conſciences, as by the following Relation will appear: Which ſufferings have been occaſioned by ſome idle and diſſolute perſons, who being not willing to take pains for an honeſt Livelihood in the Creation, as other men do, are turned Informers, going from place to place on purpoſe to find out ſuch

Meetings; troubling the Magiſtrates, and inſtigating ſuch as are willing to gratifie them, that they may make a prey upon the ſaid Peoples Eſtates and Livelihoods; ruining and deſtroying theſe Peaceable Proteſtant-Subjects, under pretence of doing the King *Service.*

We therefore entreat your Patience to peruſe the following account, and take it into your ſerious Conſiderations, to afford the Sufferers ſome effectual and ſpeedy relief, by ſtopping ſuch Inhumane proceedings for the future, that they and their Families may not be utterly deſtroyed.

Hunting-

Huntington-ſhire, 1670.

FOr meeting together to worſhip God, Eighty perſons have been fined at ſeveral times 254 *l.* 5 *s.* for which there hath been taken from them, Sheep, Cowes, Horſes, Hoggs, Wool, Oatmeal, Carts, Pewter, Panns, and Potts, and other Goods to the value of 276 *l.* 5 *s.* Note, *Tho. Liſter* was fined 2 *l.* For which they took a Horſe from him worth 6 *l.* and a Cow worth 2 *l.* they ſold the Horſe to *Hen. Williams* called a Juſtice for 25 *s.* and the Cow to another Juſtices man for 16 *s.* 6 *d.* *Chriſtopher Maidſton*, for being at two Meetings, fined 20 *s.* for himſelf and his Wife, upon the Oath of *John Blake*, and *Will Scot* Informers, who ſwore falſly, for the Woman was not at the Meeting. *Jaſper Liſter*, having all his Goods taken away, he went to *John Hieron*, called a Juſtice, for a Bed, which he refuſing, he deſired he might have a Blanket to cover him; but it would not be granted, though he had Three Children, and himſelf ſo lame, that he goes on Crutches, and when no body would buy the Goods in the Market, the Juſtices would meet at an Inn, and ſell them by the inch of Candle; ſelling them to Informers, Juſtices & themſelves, buying ſome, & their Clarks; and their Kindred many times for a great deal leſs than half the worth of them. Juſtice *Hieron*, coming to a meeting at *Godmanheſter*, asked them what they did there? one anſwered, meet to worſhip God; he ſaid, you have ſaid enough to condemn your ſelf, and all that be here, and fined them. *John Arthur* fined 5 *l.* 10 *s.* had all his Goods taken away, not leaving him ſo much as a Diſh, or Spoon, nor the Dung in his Yard, though he had ſold it before for 6 *s.*

And when the Officers returned, that there was no Goods left, but Forms and Stools, *Rob. Apreice* called Juſtice, bid them take the friends Coat off his back, if he had two, and the other things they might carry out and ſet fire on them.

Lincoln-ſhire.

TAken for ſeveral meetings, Goods and Cattle (in the Years 1670. (72) and (74) To the vallue of 391 *l.* 18*s* 4 *d.* for 94 *l.* 10 *s.* fines. *Will. Lewis* a Prieſt, and *John Ward* a Pariſh Clark Informers. One *John Obrey*, Prieſt of *Anderby*, ſetting the Informers on, threatning that he will ſtarve the *Quakers* by this Act. *Richard Friſby*, and *Edward Greaves* two other Informers ſwore, that one *John Peachell* ſpoke in the meeting, when not one word was ſpoken by him; nevertheleſs, one called Juſtice *Therrald* fined him 20 *l.* The aforeſaid Diſtreſſes were taken, although no Teſtimony ever came in againſt them, but that they were met together in peace and quietneſs, and no outward exerciſe of Religion, nor pretence of any proved againſt them; and ſome of them never called to anſwer, nor no witneſs ſworn in their ſight againſt them, but the witneſſes examined in private, and that counted a Conviction.

Cambridg-ſhire.

TAken from ſeveral perſons in this County, in the Year 1670, 1673. 1674. Goods, *viz.* Pewter-diſhes, Wood, Braſs, Linen cloath, Shop-goods, and Working-tools, to the very Shoomakers lafts, and Womens Coats, Head-cloths, Gloves and Patens, and Cowes, and Horſes, in all to the vallue of 608 *l.* 16 *s.* 3 *d.* They took from *George Thorrowgood* of *Ely*, his Bed and Coverleds, and left the poor man to lodge on ſtraw, and afterwards for ſtanding in the ſtreet before his own door, was fined 10 *l.* by *Pantridge* and *Lamy* called Juſtices, for which his Sheets, Pillowbeers, and very Shirt was taken from him, though he was very ſick in body at that time. *Edward Cook* Miller, for 5 *l.* 5 *s.* fine, had taken his two Loading Horſes, his Houſhold-ſtuff, to the Bedds and Bedſteads the children lay on, and childs Cradle, to the vallue of 12 *l.* 15 *s.* ſo that the children were fain to lye on Straw upon the Boards, by which means they fell ſick, and one dyed ſince.

Stephen Perry Tinker. } The two grand Informers in
Simeon Prieſt Barber. } this County.

Cornwal

Cornwall.

TAken from 69. Persons for 311 *l.* 5 *s.* fines laid upon them in the yeares 1670. 1673, 1674. In Goods and Cattle, to the value of 497 *l.* 13. *s.* 8. *d.* *Henry Williams* a poor man, stript so near that they left him neither Breeches to ware, nor Bed to lye on, and took his very Hatchet, he should work withall; from another poor man, for 15 *s.* fine, they took his wives wearing apparel.

And there are lately several persons fined, to the value of 147 *l.* for which distresses are not yet taken.

Also many are proceeded against upon an old statute against Popish Recusants, and returned into the Exchequer for a Seizure, of two thirds of their Estates, and a writ of enquiry sent down to Commissioners, to enquire into their Estates.

Darby-shire.

SIxty Persons fined also for Meeting 293 *l* 2 *s*, 8 *d*. or there abouts, had taken to the value of 366 *l*. 4 *s*. 10 *d*. in Cowes, Swine, Shoes, Leather, Corn, Hay, House-hold Stuff, to the Dish and Spoon, and working Gear; and from the Smith his Bellows and Tools, sweeping all away, both within doores and without. *William Cooper* had taken his Cow, Corn, Hay, houshold-goods, to his wearing Coat, and the meat he had provided for his Wife, and three small Children.

Norfolk.

TAken from several persons in the yeares 1670 and 1674. the value of 1244 *l*. 7 *s*. 5 *d*. In Cattle, Sheep, Houshold Stuff, and the Dung-Fork, Pitch-Fork, and Daubing-fork; the Mans Doublet, and Breeches, the Wives Coates, and their Beds from under them, that they were fain to lye on Straw; taking all at one House, both within doores and without: the Justice bidding the Officers take all they had, and then they should have down with

with them: And when they told the Juſtice, there was little left to diſtrain for *Fra. Landers* Wives fine, but the bed ſhe lay on, being ſick and like to die, (and ſhe did die that night:) he ſaid he cared not, take the bed from under her, and ſometime after ſhe was buried: ſome cauſed her body to be taken up again, in an Inhumane manner, breaking the Coffin, that they were fain to tye it together, and carried it upon a pole, and ſet it in the Market Place, to the amazement of many People.

And about 12 perſons being in a Room viſiting their ſick friend, (upon his deſire) and one of them ſpeaking 5 or 6 words to him, the Informers ſwore againſt them, and the ſick man was fined 20 *l.* for having the ſaid Meeting in his houſe, and had 6 Cowes taken from him, and the others fined 20 *l.* for the Preacher, which was alſo leavied.

John Patterſon of *Cockley Clay*, had his Barn of Corn ſeized on, and 200 Sheep taken, worth 80 *l.* and ſold for 65 *l.* or thereabouts; Alſo many are lately preſented in this County, as Popiſh recuſants.

Nottinghamſhire. 1670, 1674.

TAken to the value of 695 *l.* 3 *s.* 6 *d.* in Cattle and Houſhold-Stuff, from ſome all their goods, excepting a Barrel of Beere, a Cradle, and ſome Bread and Cheeſe, which the Officers for pitty hid, and told the women of it; the Juſtice bid the Officers take three or four times as much as the fines that they might allow good penny worths. They took from a poor fatherleſs Boy, his Coat and Breeches; not leaving the Woman at one houſe a Stool to ſit on to dreſs her Child: Two perſons appealing to the Seſſions, they ordred them their mony again; but *Penniſton Whaley*, called a Juſtice, fraudulently detains 60 *l*, in his hands contrary to the orders of the Seſſions.

Note, *Colgrave* the grand Informer, ſwearing falſly ſeveral times, as that perſons were at a Meeting, when they were not, and that there was preaching, when there was not one word ſpoken; and that divers were not worth 10 *s.* though it was proved in open Court, they had Horſes, Beaſts and Sheep of their own at that time.

Kent.

TAken goods worth 40 *l.* 18 *s.* 9 *d. viz.* Mault, Shoes, Bed, Bedding, Earthen-ware, and houſhold-ſtuff; beſides a great deal of goods, the vallue not ſent up, ſelling goods at under rate, *viz.* Thirty pounds worth, for 5 *l.* 15 *s.*

Cheſhire, 1674.

SEveral perſons have had their goods and Cattle taken to a great vallue, *viz.* Cowes, Bacon, Cheeſe, Corn, Bedds, Coverlids, Panns, Pewter, and other Houſhold goods; the Informers threatning they would not leave taking from them while they were worth a Groat, ſaying, they would turn Drovers, and drive them every week. The Informers being highly encouraged by a Juſtice of *Cheſter*; they uſed violence to many, in breaking up the meeting, pulling the hair off their heads, ſtriking them, and drawing their Swords, ſwore they would take off a hand or arm from ſome of them, and threatned to run through and kill ſome of them, and to ſtand to it when they had done. The aforeſaid Juſtice bid the Officers be ſure to take enough, and then they might have ſome for themſelves: ſetting the Souldiers to buy the Cattle, when none elſe would buy them.

Amongſt theſe ſufferers, 10 or 12 are poor Widdowes, ſome of them having a great charge of Fatherleſs children, they have not left ſome of them a Skillet to boyl their childrens meat in, and moſt of them have no Eſtates, but are Rackers, which they pay Yearly for; and diverſe lately fined and lyable to be diſtreyned.

Oxfordſhire, 1670. 1674.

TAken the vallue of 176 *l.* 2 *s.* 7 *d.* In Cowes, Corn, Piggs, Bacon, Mault, Bedds, Bolſters, Sheets, and other houſhold goods, to the very Pot-hookes, and the poor mans Breeches and Doublet; not leaving one man a Bed to lye on, nor any thing to

boyle food in for his Wife and five small children, and took 15 s. out of a poor Womans Purse. A Priest being Informer haled the women out of the meeting, and tore their cloaths, and another Priests wife swore she would be an Informer.

Besides, the rude, uncivil, obscene and shameful behaviour and carriages of the Schollars at our meeting in *Oxford*.

Many more Warrants out to distrein, which are not yet executed.

One man fined 5 s. for which the Officers took a childs coat, which the child seeing, cryed out with a loud voice.

Essex, 1670, 1674, 1675.

TAken the vallue of 467 *l.* 19 s 7 *d.* In Linnen Cloath, womens cloaths, Horses, Carts, Brass, Pewter, Bedding, Wool, Sheep, Leather, Bread-Corn and Bread, Shop-goods and houshold goods, the Justice using rugged speeches, striking some, and thrusting others in the Dirt, that were brought before him, for being at a meeting, and caused two to be set in the Stocks.

Cumberland, 1670, 1672, 1673.

TAken in Cattle, *viz.* Cowes, Heifers, Sheep, Horses, Swine, Corn, *&c.* Butter, Cheese, wearing cloaths, working tools, and Houshold goods, to the vallue of 226 *l.* 13 s. 1 *d.* most of the sufferers being poor labouring people: some whereof had all to their very bedding taken from them: as for instance, *Matthew Kirkbride* a poor man had his Bed-cloaths taken from off his poor children, and they left naked. *James Barne* an old poor dimsighted lame man (maim'd in the Kings service) his very bedding, and Eight bushels of Mault taken from him.

West-

Westmerland, 1675.

IOurscore persons presented, indicted and convicted upon the Statute of the 23th of *Elizabeth* to be returned into the Exchequer since the Kings late Declaration against *Popish Recusants* though well known to be no Papists.

Glaucester-shire, 1675.

MUch goods distreined, and sold, to a considerable vallue; and from labouring men their working-tools taken from them, that some were constrained to give over their Trades. They took from a Smith, his Bellowes, Anvil and Vices, scarce leaving any a Bed to lye on; and some were so cruelly beaten, that their flesh was of many colours. Much Cattle also being distreined and brought to Market in Droves, to the grief and trouble of many people to see such oppression and spoil upon their peaceable Neighbours.

Surrey, from 1670. to 1675.

FIfty Three persons had distreined from them, for meetings, Goods and Cattle of the vallue of 351 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.*

Durham.

SEventeen persons for meetings, had distreined from them Pewter, Horse, Corn, and other goods, to the vallue of 28 *l.* 23 *s.* 6 *d.* besides had great abuses done to their persons. Taken goods to the vallue of 18 *l.* for a fine of 2 *l.* 10 *s.* and 3 remain Prisoners at this time in this County, for Conscience sake.

Warwick-shire.

Thirteen persons for meeting, had Cattle, Corn, and other goods taken from them, to the vallue of 69 *l.* 6 *s.* 10 *d.* *John Clark* of *Latington*, A Priest, being Informer in this County, the Officers with him went into a back-side to distrein, and running after the Piggs, they saw a blind Horse, the Priest said they must take him, the Officers said he was worth little, he said they must take him, though they knock him on the head for his skin to sell.

Sussex.

Twenty four persons for meeting, had Cattle, Horses, Corn, and other goods distreined from them, to the vallue of 66 *l.* 1 *s.*

Suffolke, from 1670, to 1675.

One hundred and thirty persons for meetings, had their Cattle Horses, Corn, Bedding, and other goods distreined, to the vallue of 1294 *l.* 1 *s.* 7 *d.* amongst others, some poor people, having some Nine, others 3 children, had taken from them the very Pott that should boyl their meat in, and other small necessaries for their subsistance; and one poor Infant bereaved of its Blanckets wherewith it was swadled, with the Pillow and Bolster whereon it lay in the Cradle; others their bed taken from under them, and they left to lye on Straw.

Somerset-shire, from the year, 1670, to 1674.

Taken, *viz.* Horses, Cowes, Sheep, Wool, Cloth, Bedds, bedding, Pewter, Brass, Shoes, Stockings, Wheat, Meal, Bacon, and such like, to the vallue of 906 *l.* 3 *s.* 9 *d.* besides several other persons in this County have had their goods seized on, that as yet

we

we know not the value of; amongſt whom is one, that had all his Braſs and Pewter taken away, and not ſo much as a Pot left to dreſs Victuals in: There hath alſo been much havock made on the Goods of Widdows, Poor, Aged, and Indigent people and Fatherleſs Children.

Sallop

TAken in Cloath, Stuffs, Pewter, Copper, Braſs, and other Houſhold-goods, to the value of 51 *l.* 4 *s.* A poor old Widdow woman, ſhe then having in her Cuſtody a Motherleſs Child, which was her Sons, the Man being then very Sick, and in danger of death; and the Prieſt, the Informer, having cauſed her Goods to be taken from her, ſhe brought him the Child, and told him he muſt take care for it; but the ſame Evening he returned the Child to her, which ſhe received: When her Son was recovered, he took the Child into another County, yet this Informer, the Prieſt, detayneth this Old Woman in Priſon, and ſaith he will keep her there, unleſs ſhe will find Sureties that the Child ſhall not be troubleſome to the Pariſh, although it was Born there, and its Father, and Grandfather continued there many years.

Pembroke-ſhire.

NIneteen Perſons for Meetings had taken from them, Cows, Oxen, Sheep, Horſes, Piggs, Corn, Hay, Beaſt, Pewter, Sheets, Blankets, Coverlids, Plow, with furniture and other Goods, to the value of 172 *l.* 5 *s.* 4 *d.* An Informer knockt one Perſon off his Horſe with his ſtick, and drew his Sword and beat him, and ſo commanded the Conſtable to Diſtrain his Goods; taking from one poor Man his Coverlid, Sheets, and Blanket; Another poor man had only one Pigg, which they took.

Dorſet-

Dorſet-ſhire.

TAken from Twenty Eight Perſons (whereof ſome poor & maimed in the Kings ſervice) in mony, Cows, Heifers, Calves Pewter, Braſs, and other Houſhold Goods, and the Womans Petticoate, and mens Shoes, to the value of 1000 *l.* 11 *s.* 11 *d.* One *Robert Culliford*, called a Juſtice, at a Meeting, kickt *Deborah Coleman* on the Belly, and ſeveral other places, and alſo ſtruck her violently with his dog Whip, and pincht one man by the Ear, calling him Rogue and thief; and pincht ſeveral others till they were Black and Blew.

A Sadle was taken worth 9 *s.* for 1 *d.* leavyed ſhort before.

A fine charged for a Speaker, he being known not to be at the Meeting that time, but elſwhere: another ſworn againſt, yet not at the Meeting: A poor man to whom yarn was delivered to work on, had his door broke up, and it taken from him, for anothers ſuppoſed offence. *Tho. Dyker* the Informer, going to Seize *Henry Hodges* Cowes, *Henry's* Wife, and Son, and Daughter, ſtood before the Cattle in the ground, being not willing to part with them; but the Informer in a rage drew his Sword, and threatned to run the Woman big with Child, through; and *Henry Hodges* ſtanding by with a Child in his Arms, though he ſpake not a word, he cut him on the Arm with his ſword to the Bone, and ſtruck him many other Blowes; ſo that he broke his Sword in two peices.

In the ſame County Ten Perſons Indicted as Popiſh Recuſants, though known to be of the People called *Quakers*; and a writ of enquiry ſent down to Commiſſioners, to enquire into their real and perſonal Eſtates: And others whoſe names we yet know not, are like to ſuffer upon the ſame Accompt.

Lancaſhire.

FOrty one Perſons for Meeting, had goods taken away, to the value of 91 *l.* beſides ſeveral fined not yet diſtreyned: Eight perſons remaining in priſon in this County, for non-payment of Tythes; ſome of the aforementioned ſufferers for Meetings, being

being poor, had all their Cattle, and Shop-Goods taken away.

Leceſter-ſhire.

Sixty Perſons have had goods taken away; and fines impoſed to the value of 333 *l.* 18 *s.* 8 *d.* One had all his goods in his Houſe and Shop taken away; two other poor Men having each but one Cow, to give their young Children Milk, were both taken away, with their Beds and Blankets; all being not enough, *George Villers* called a Juſtice, required an Oath of the Officers, that they had not left one of them worth any thing. Nineteen perſons fined, and have had goods taken away (for refuſing to Swear) to the Value of 80 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*

Stafford-ſhire, from 1670, to 1674.

GOods and Cattle taken for Meetings, to the vallue of 75 *l.* 4 *s.* 10 *d.* *Alice Bowman*, for ſpeaking a few ſober words to a Prieſt and the people in their Meeting-Houſe, was committed to the Houſe of Correction, with her ſucking child: under which hard uſage the Child died.

Hereford-ſhire. 1670, 1674.

THirty two Perſons for Meeting, had Goods and Cattle, taken from them; to the value of 330 *l.* 12 *s.* 4 *d.* *Charles Bernard* of *Lemſter*, fined at two times 60 *l.* for which all his Goods, Chattels, and moveables were ſeized, and ſold by the Officers and Informers, by a warrant from one *Tomkins* and *John Barnaby*, Knights.

Berk-ſhire. 1670.

GOods and Hay, taken from ſeveral perſons in this County for Meeting; to the value of 40 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

Hamp-

Hamp-ſhire. 1670.

TWo Perſons fined for Meetings, had taken from them, Goo... to the value of 36*l.* 10*s.*

Wilt-ſhire.

FIve perſons for Meeting, had taken from them, Oxen, Cowes, Sheep, Mault, Wool and Houſhold Goods, to the value of 81*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* The ſeizers of theſe goods, came in at a Window at one houſe, and broke open a door at another; one of the five ſuffe-rers is a poor Woman having Children.

Northumberland, 1675.

SEven Perſons committed to Priſon for Meeting; one of them having been ſick of the Flux this half year, was taken out of his Chamber very rudely, and without Mercy haled out of the Town, being ſcarce able to go on his leggs.

Devon-ſhire, from 1670, to 1674.

SIxty one Perſons for Meeting, had Pewter, Braſs potts, Sheep, Warming Pan, Braſs Kettle, Linnen-Cloath, Jack, Diſhes, Candleſtick, Fire-Pan, Weaving-Tooles, Wool-combing-Tooles, Houſhold-Stuff and neceſſarys for rigging a Ship, for 154*l.* 13*s.* fines: Taken to the value of 222*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* Two Labourers, for refuſeing to carry away goods diſtrained, were comitted to Pri-ſon: Four Conſtables ſent to Jayle, for not diſtreining Peoples Goods.

TAken for Meeting, in Heifers, Horses, Sheep, Houshold Goods and Mault, to the value of 582*l.* 10*s.* Two Prisoners in this County, upon a writ of *Excommunicato Capiendo*, and another for *non*-payment of Tythes.

York shire.

TAken for Meeting, in Horses, Cows, Sheep, Shop ware, and Houshold-goods, to the value of 2381*l.* 00*s.* 3*d.* Taken from one Person in this County Twenty-eight Head of Cattle, Nine Horses, and 130 Sheep, in all worth 130*l.* And when the Constable affirmed at the Sessions, that he could not get the Goods sold; one of the Justices told him, you must sell them, though you sell Ten pounds worth for 10*l.*

And though the Losses have been so very great in this County, yet they are not to be compared to the Los of their Trades, many of them being Trades men, and Labouring Poor men, who have had their Looms, Leads, and Tenters taken away, which was the Upholders of their Families. And some poor Women had their Goods taken, who were hardly able to get Food and Necessaries. *Mary Todd*, a poor Widdow, for having a Meeting at her House, one *Francis Driffield*, called a Justice, sent a Warrant to bring her before him; but she was so Aged, she was not able to go on Foot nor Ride so far: Then he gave Order to Distrain 20*l.* 5*s.* on her Goods: The Informers told him her Goods was not worth so much, well said he, take all she hath, which they performed as neer as they could, not leaving her a Bed to lye on, taking her very Cloaths, though she was but a poor Widdow, Aged and in Debt.

William Thornaby the younger, and *John Allison*, both of *Richmond*, grand Informers, searching for a Meeting at a Widdows House, where they found three persons visiting the Widdows Daughter, who lay very weak, not likely to live; and whilst they were

one of which was a Kinswoman, and no Quaker, as was afterwards proved; nevertheless *Thornaby* set down their Names, and went to *James Metcalf*, called a Justice, who Fined the Persons, and granted a Warrant to Distrain; but the Sufferers appealing, the most moderate Justices, judged this hard measure and illegal, and ordered the money to be returned. This is only noted to shew the wickedness of these informers, and some Justices.

Note, That among the Sufferers, the Burthen hath fallen exceeding heavy upon some Particulars, as Farmers, Trades-men, Shop-keepers, Handicraft-men, being Fined and Unreasonably Distrained, because of the Poverty of many others, whereof particular Instances may be given, if occasion require: This fore-going account being but an abstract of the many and great sufferings which we have received an account of already, and for expedition sake thus abreviated, there being also much more suffering, as we understand, in divers Countys, which we have not yet a full Account of, as in *Norfolk*, *Cheshire*, *Cambridge*, *Suffolk*, and some other places; the spoyl being greatest where the Magistrates are ready to answer the Mercinary Informers; the Cry of whose destructive proceedings is very loud in this Nation, and the Land mourns because of this Oppression: Therefore, we request your speedy redress of this Grievance, that the Poor, the Oppressed, and Industrious Families may be Relieved, Eased, and Encouraged; and do likewise pray, that God would graciously be pleased to enlighten and open your understandings, and make your hearts tender and sensible that he may turn away his Wrath, and divert those heavy Judgments and Calamities which this Nation is liable to.

We were always willing to give *Cæsar* his due, and we desire we may have liberty to give God his due in all respects, and to Serve, Obey, and Worship him in Spirit and Truth, and to meet together in the peaceable exercise thereof, as we are commanded. If we be Ruined in our Persons and Estates, or Masters of Families destroyed in Prisons, how can we pay the Kings Taxes, or Landlords their Rents, or Contribute to the Service of King or Country? You may understand what lamentable havock is made of us, and only for good Conscience in obeying God and Christ, for nothing contrary has been found against us, for which we suffer. It is the Liberty of

the

imprisonment or spoyling Goods: so as we are enjoyned to stand fast in that Liberty wherewith Christ has made us free from the Thraldom of Sathan, we desire this our Liberty may not be infringed upon. We greatly suffered for our tender Consciences towards God in the other Powers days; and we think it very hard that we, who own the Lord Jesus Christ, should suffer in a Nation professing Christianity.

You cannot be unsensible how many of us have also been Imprisoned and Premunired, because they durst not break the command of Christ and the Apostle, who commands not to Swear, but keep to *Yea* and *Nay*, Math. 5. Jam. 5. *Wherefore we request that our* Yea, Yea, *and* Nay, Nay, *may be taken instead of an Oath; and when we are called to testifie the Truth in any case, or bear any Office, if we break (or be found false in) our* Yea, *or our* Nay, *then let us suffer the same Punishment as they do that break their Oaths; and not for our Conscientiously refusing to Swear, while we speak the Truth, as we are still liable to suffer, unless you are pleased to grant a redress.*

Be it Remembred

That there have suffered Imprisonment for Conscience-sake, since the King came into *England*, above 8000 of the People called *Quakers*; and since, near two hundred have dyed Prisoners by reason of their close Confinement. Of which number Seventy-nine Dyed in *Newgate*, and on Board the Ships, appointed for their Transportation in the time of the Contagion in *London*, being Prisoners; and many under the Sentence of Transportation, upon the Act against Conventicles: and 138 Persons Sentenced for Banishment.

He that justifieth the Wicked, and he that Condemneth the Just, even they both are an abomination unto the Lord, Prov. 17. 15.

THE END

Carefully Examined and Compared with the Original Accounts sent out of the Countreys, on the behalf of the aforesaid Sufferers,

By *Ellis Hookes.*